

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a drug through a patient's skin comprising:

(a) providing a transdermal delivery system that comprises a plurality of patch units, wherein each patch unit comprises a backing layer having one or more borders, an impermeable layer on the surface of the backing layer, a drug layer comprising a drug disposed on the ~~backing layer~~ impermeable layer, and an adhesive layer, wherein the drug layer is a drug-in-matrix layer ~~or a drug-in-adhesive layer~~, the drug is a narcotic analgesic, a local anesthetic, a sedative, a tranquilizer, or a combination thereof, wherein the borders of the backing layer are free of any drug, and wherein at least a portion of the adhesive layer is disposed on the borders of the backing layer;

the plurality of patch units are connected to each other along one or more borders of the patch units; and

each patch unit is defined by one or more lines of separation along the borders of the patch units;

(b) separating at least one patch unit from the transdermal delivery system along at least one line of separation; and

(c) applying at least one patch unit such that the drug layer makes contact with the skin.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the patch units are applied on the skin of the planter foot arch, lateral ankle, palm, upper arm, ventral forearm, dorsal forearm, back, thigh, abdomen, scalp, axilla, forehead, lower back, chest, buttocks or scrotum.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a portion of the adhesive layer is disposed on the drug layer; and a cover layer is disposed on the adhesive layer.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the drug is fentanyl, etorphine, buprenorphine, penzocaine, morphine, morphine derivative, lidocaine, prilocaine,

mepivacaine, pentobarbital sodium, phenobarbital, secobarbital sodium, codeine, (a-bromoisovaleryl) urea, carbromal, sodium phenobarbital, or a combination thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein said transdermal delivery system further comprises a release limiting layer disposed on the drug layer.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the drug is encapsulated by microcapsules.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the drug layer comprises about 0.1-90% by weight of the drug.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the drug layer comprises about 10-45% by weight of the drug.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the drug layer comprises about 25-40% by weight of the drug.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the drug layer further comprises a softening agent, wherein the softening agent is dodecanol, undecanol, octoanol, esters of carboxylic acids, or a combination thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the drug layer further comprises a permeation enhancing agent which is used without a carrier.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the cover layer comprises a notch so as to facilitate separation of the cover layer from the adhesive layer.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the transdermal delivery system is stored in a resealable pouch.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the lines of separation are parallel and/or perpendicular to each other.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the lines of separation are lines of perforations.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the lines of separation are spaced at regular intervals.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the lines of separation are about 1 cm to 6 cm apart.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein 2 to 5 patch units are connected in series in the transdermal delivery system.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein 4 patch units are arranged in 2 rows and 2 columns in the transdermal delivery system.

20-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein two to five patch units are applied on the skin.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of delivering a drug through a patient's skin comprising:

(a) providing a transdermal delivery system that comprises a plurality of patch units, wherein each patch unit comprises a backing layer having one or more borders, a drug layer comprising fentanyl disposed on the backing layer, and an adhesive layer, and wherein at least a portion of the adhesive layer is disposed on the borders of the backing layer; the plurality of patch units are connected to each other along one or more borders of the patch units; and each patch unit is defined by one or more lines of separation along the borders of the patch units;

(b) separating at least one patch unit from the transdermal delivery system along at least one line of separation; and

(c) applying at least one patch unit such that the drug layer makes contact with the skin.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of delivering a drug through a patient's skin comprising:

(a) providing a transdermal delivery system that comprises a plurality of patch units, wherein each patch unit comprises a backing layer having one or more borders, a drug layer comprising buprenorphine disposed on the backing layer, and an adhesive layer, wherein the drug layer is a drug-in-matrix layer or a drug-in-adhesive layer, the borders of the backing layer are free of any drug, and wherein at least a portion of the adhesive layer is disposed on the borders of the backing layer;

the plurality of patch units are connected to each other along one or more borders of the patch units; and

each patch unit is defined by one or more lines of separation along the borders of the patch units;

(b) separating at least one patch unit from the transdermal delivery system along at least one line of separation; and

(c) applying at least one patch unit such that the drug layer makes contact with the skin.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a narcotic analgesic through a patient's skin comprising:

(a) providing a transdermal delivery system that comprises a plurality of patch units, wherein each patch unit comprises a backing layer having one or more borders, a drug layer comprising a narcotic analgesic disposed on the backing layer, and an adhesive layer, wherein the drug layer is ~~a drug-in-matrix layer~~ or a drug-in-adhesive layer, the borders of the backing layer are free of any drug, and wherein at least a portion of the adhesive layer is disposed on the borders of the backing layer;

the plurality of patch units are connected to each other along one or more borders of the patch units; and

each patch unit is defined by one or more lines of separation along the borders of the patch units;

(b) separating at least one patch unit from the transdermal delivery system along at least one line of separation; and

(c) applying at least one patch unit such that the drug layer makes contact with the skin.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26 wherein the narcotic analgesic is fentanyl.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26 wherein the narcotic analgesic is buprenorphine.

29. (Withdrawn) A method of adjusting the therapeutic dosage of drug delivered through a patient's skin, the method comprising:

(a) providing a transdermal delivery system that comprises a plurality of patch units, wherein each patch unit comprises a backing layer having one or more borders, a drug layer comprising a drug disposed on the backing layer, and an adhesive layer, wherein the drug is a narcotic analgesic, a local anesthetic, a sedative, a tranquilizer, or a combination thereof, and wherein at least a portion of the adhesive layer is disposed on the borders of the backing layer;

the patch units are connected to each other along one or more borders of the patch units; and each patch unit is defined by one or more lines of separation along the borders of the patch units;

(b) separating a first number of patch units from the transdermal delivery system along at least one line of separation;

(c) applying the first number of patch units such that the drug layer makes contact with the skin;

(d) thereafter, separating a second number of patch units from the delivery system along at least one line of separation, the second number of patch units being different than or the same as the first number of patch units; and

(e) applying the second number of patch units such that the drug layer makes contact with the skin.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29 wherein one or more patch units from the first number of patch units are removed from the skin before applying the second number of patch units to the skin.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29 wherein one or more patch units from the first number of patch units remain on the skin before applying the second number of patch units to the skin.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29 wherein the drug is fentanyl, etorphine, buprenorphine, penzocaine, morphine, morphine derivative, lidocaine, prilocaine, mepivacaine, pentobarbital sodium, phenobarbital, secobarbital sodium, codeine, (a-bromoisovaleryl) urea, carbromal, sodium phenobarbital, or a combination thereof.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, comprising increasing the dosage of drug through the patient's skin, wherein the second number of patch units is greater than the first number of patch units.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, comprising decreasing the dosage of drug through the patient's skin, wherein the second number of patch units is less than the first number of patch units.

35. (Withdrawn) A method of adjusting the therapeutic dosage of drug delivered through a patient's skin, the method comprising:

(a) providing a transdermal delivery system that comprises a plurality of patch units, wherein each patch unit comprises a backing layer having one or more borders, a drug layer comprising fentanyl disposed on the backing layer, and an adhesive layer, wherein at least a portion of the adhesive layer is disposed on the borders of the backing layer; the patch units are connected to each other along one or more borders of the patch units; and each patch unit is defined by one or more lines of separation along the borders of the patch units;

(b) separating a first number of patch units from the transdermal delivery system along at least one line of separation;

(c) applying the first number of patch units such that the drug layer makes contact with the skin;

(d) thereafter, separating a second number of patch units from the delivery system along at least one line of separation, the second number of patch units being different than or the same as the first number of patch units; and

(e) applying the second number of patch units such that the drug layer makes contact with the skin.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein one or more patch units from the first number of patch units are removed from the skin before applying the second number of patch units to the skin.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein one or more patch units from the first number of patch units remain on the skin before applying the second number of patch units to the skin.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, comprising increasing the dosage of fentanyl through the patient's skin, wherein the second number of patch units is greater than the first number of patch units.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, comprising decreasing the dosage of fentanyl through the patient's skin, wherein the second number of patch units is less than the first number of patch units.

40. (Withdrawn) A method of adjusting the therapeutic dosage of drug delivered through a patient's skin, the method comprising:

(a) providing a transdermal delivery system that comprises a plurality of patch units, wherein each patch unit comprises a backing layer having one or more borders, a drug layer comprising buprenorphine disposed on the backing layer, and an adhesive layer, wherein at least a portion of the adhesive layer is disposed on the borders of the backing layer; the patch units are connected to each other along one or more borders of the patch units; and each patch unit is defined by one or more lines of separation along the borders of the patch units;

(b) separating a first number of patch units from the transdermal delivery system along at least one line of separation;

(c) applying the first number of patch units such that the drug layer makes contact with the skin;

(d) thereafter, separating a second number of patch units from the delivery system along at least one line of separation, the second number of patch units being different than or the same as the first number of patch units; and

(e) applying the second number of patch units such that the drug layer makes contact with the skin.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40 wherein one or more patch units from the first number of patch units are removed from the skin before applying the second number of patch units to the skin.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40 wherein one or more patch units from the first number of patch units remain on the skin before applying the second number of patch units to the skin.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, comprising increasing the dosage of buprenorphine through the patient's skin, wherein the second number of patch units is greater than the first number of patch units.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, comprising decreasing the dosage of buprenorphine through the patient's skin, wherein the second number of patch units is less than the first number of patch units.